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Mycological Bulletin No. 21

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THE ILLUSTRATIONS.—Fungi to be found by everybody are shown in this No. and while we have to bear the responsibility of three illustrations, it is to the kindness of Dr. Wm. Trelease that the beautiful cut of *Lepiota*, Fig. 73, is given on page 82. This is supplementary to Fig. 71 which was published on page 80.

EXPLANATIONS OF THE DESCRIPTIVE BLANK.—Recurring to the blank for descriptions of Mushrooms published in the previous NUMBER for those who wish to study somewhat carefully the Gill-fungi, it has seemed best to suggest a few points that may aid beginners.

First, it is suggested that *all* specimens be *serially* numbered whether they are thoroughly studied, described or figured, or merely collected and sent away for name and comment. Never repeat a number—there is no objection or inconvenience even if the series runs up to hundreds.

The *habitat* is quite important—meaning the place in which the specimen is found or usually grows—as in fields, open woods, thick shady woods, on soil, on stumps, logs, etc.

The *pileus* can be easily described in brief, plain language, as to size, shape and color; the shape is commonly *convex* like the Common Mushroom, but the convexity may be greater when it would be *campanulate* (bell shape), or it may become expanded or *plane* (flattened) as it approaches maturity. If it has a sharp, deep depression (as in Fig. 70) it is said to be *in-fun-dib'-u-li-form*; a slight depression is indicated by the word *um-bil'-i-cate*; if it has a boss or knob (*umbo*) in the centre it is described as *um'-bo-nate*. The *pileus* may be smooth, scaly, striate, moist, viscid (sticky), water-soaked, etc.; its margin may be straight as applied to the stem or *incurved*.

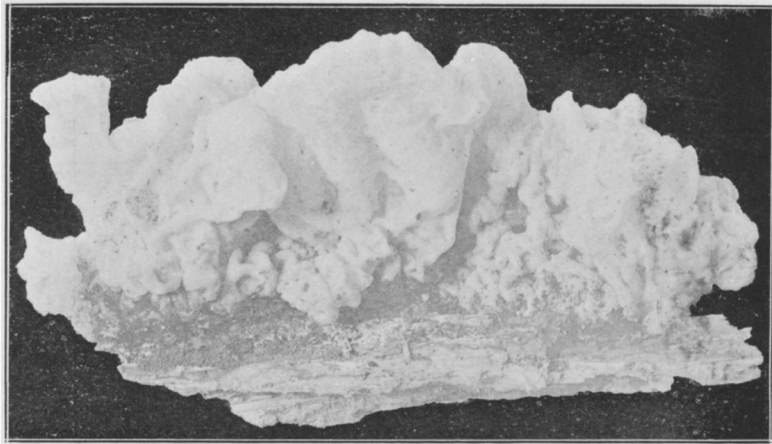


Fig. 72. TRE-MEL'-LA AL'-BI-DA. WHITE TRE-MEL'-LA. EDIBLE. This belongs to the group of *Trembling fungi*, having a gelatinous consistency, when fresh having a soft clammy touch and yielding like a mass of gelatine. The botanists put them in the group of *Basid-i-o-my-ce'-tae*, to which all the Gill fungi and many others belong. This species is common on rotton wood in moist shady places. The specimens were collected near Sandusky, Ohio.

The *Gills* can not be characterized off-hand so readily and certain technical terms are indispensable. For example, they are said to be broad, narrow, lanceolate, triangular, etc., according to their shape when viewed from the side,—i. e., when the pileus is cut in halves showing the gill in full width and length. The ends of the gills next to the stem are to be especially noted; they are said to be *adnate* when set squarely to the stem and attached; if they run down on the stem they are *decurrent*; but if they are rounded and not attached to the stem they are said to be *free*. In some cases they have a notch or curve at the posterior end (end next to stem), when they are described as *emarginate* or *sinate*.

The *spores* should always be described as to color seen in mass—the spore print settles this; or a pocket lens or a low power of the microscope can be used to advantage. When a high power is available (say a 4 or a 6) the shape and size of the spores should be recorded.

Doubtless the above suggestions will be ample to guide the beginner who wishes to try his hand on the descriptive blank, which was given in the previous NUMBER. If some question then still persists in the mind, the party is requested to speak out.



Fig. 73. LEP-1-O'-TA NAU-CI'-NA. SMOOTH LEP-1-O'-TA. EDIBLE. This illustration shows a mature specimen of the same Mushroom given under Fig. 71, p. 80. As has been stated elsewhere, the genus *Lepiota* is closely related to *Amanita* but differs from it in not having a *volva*. Careful inspection relative to this point should always be made. The Smooth *Lepiota* grows in lawns, in pastures, by roadsides, etc. At this season of the year it is quite abundant. It is white or the cap may be buff, and in age the gills become dirty pink in color. Our figure is reproduced from the Annual Report of the Missouri Botanical Garden by permission of Director Wm. Trelease.

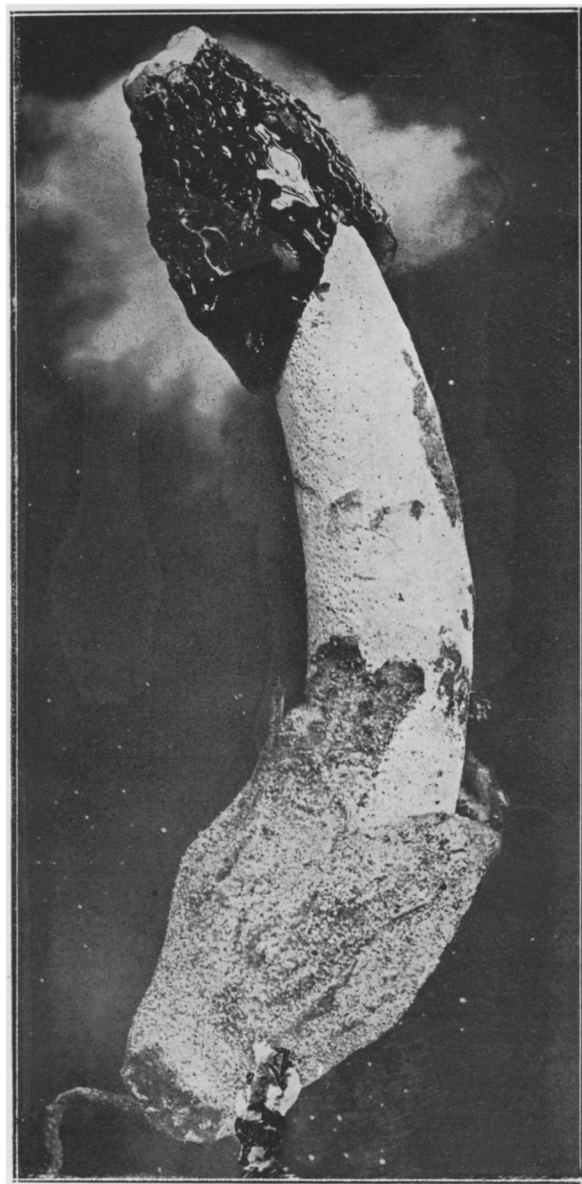


FIG. 74. ITH-Y-PHAL'-LUS IM-PV'-DI-CUS. STINKHORN. This is a common *Phal'-loid* at once known by its peculiar shape and vile odor about which comments may be reserved for the future. The photograph was made from a specimen collected near Sandusky, Ohio, by Professor F. L. Landacre.



Fig. 75. AM-A-NI'TA RU-BES'CENS. REDDISH AM-A-NI'TA. Of these species Professor Atkinson says: "Edible *but use great caution*. It is so-called because of the sordid reddish color diffused over the entire plant, and especially because bruised portions quickly turn to a reddish color." The specimen from which the photograph was taken, was collected in open woods, Johnson's Island, Sandusky, Ohio, by H. H. York.

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(TO BE CONTINUED)

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